Edith Cowan University
Student Services Centre - Scholarships

Information for Applicants and Recipients of the ECU Equity Scholarship

The ECU Equity Scholarships are intended to assist students from designated equity groups with the costs associated with University study. Applications are sought from students from low socio-economic backgrounds, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders, people with a disability or ongoing illness, people with significant caring responsibilities and those from rural or regional areas.

How do I apply? You can apply for the ECU Equity Scholarship via our online applicant portal, which will only be accessible during the open for application period, normally mid-January through to end February/early March. You can visit http://www.ecu.edu.au/scholarships/overview to confirm actual dates and from there you can link through to the applicant portal.

Important Advice to Applicants

- Do not submit your online application until you are fully satisfied that you have provided all the information required.
- All applications are assessed on information provided in the initial application, no extra information will be considered after the submission except for the following:
  - If you indicate on your submitted application that you have applied for Centrelink and are awaiting an outcome then it is your responsibility to provide the Scholarships Office with your new customer reference number (CRN).
  - You will need to provide the CRN in writing to Scholarships@ecu.edu.au prior to the closing date if you wish your application to be considered
- Centrelink and Scholarships Questions - Ensure you provide accurate information regarding any other scholarships/payments you receive and check that the Centrelink customer Reference number you provide is correct if you wish your application to be considered.
- Circumstances and Personal Goals section - You are provided with 2 sections in the application form where you are able to provide information to the selection panel about your particular circumstances. You are strongly encouraged to use this opportunity in order to provide information that is relevant to the intentions of the scholarship.

How are the recipients selected? Selection is made from the eligible applicants and is based on their demonstrated need and personal circumstances.

How will I know if I am successful? You will be notified by the ECU Scholarships Office of the outcome of your application via your student email. We are unable to make selection decisions until after the closing date for applications. First round offers are normally made within 7 to 10 days after the closing date. The total processing time is dependent on those offers; however it is hoped that by early May all applicants will have received confirmation of the outcome of their application whether it was successful or not. All offers made are conditional.

Can I appeal? Applicants have the right of appeal against process issues, but not against committee decisions or assessor ratings and comments.
To initiate an appeal on due grounds, a letter which specifies the grounds for appeal should be sent to the Scholarships Office within ten (10) days of the date on the letter advising the outcome of the scholarship application.
All applications are assessed on information provided in the initial application, no extra information will be considered with an appeal.
If you have any further questions regarding your unsuccessful application please contact the Scholarships Office.

Value and Payments

What is the value of the scholarship?
ECU Equity Scholarships are valued at up to $3000 per year, for the duration of your undergraduate degree course.

The actual amount you can receive will be based on

- The duration of the course you are enrolled in at the time of the scholarship offer whether 3 or 4 years
- and
- the units you are enrolled in at each census date for that semester

If you are enrolled in 30 credit points or more but less than 60 you will receive a pro rata payment (percentage of full payment). The semester payments are as follows:-

- $1500.00 per semester if you are enrolled in 60 credit points or above
- $1125.00 per semester if you are enrolled in 45 credit points
- $750.00 per semester if you are enrolled in 30 credit points

What if I am enrolled in less than 30 credit points or more than 60 credit points?
The minimum enrolment allowed is 30 credit points. If you are studying at less than 30 credit points you will not be eligible to receive that semester's scholarship payment and your scholarship will be placed on "intermit.

If you enrol in more than 60 credit points you can only receive the maximum semester payment of $1500.

When and how will I receive my Scholarship payment?
Each semester following the census date, for each year of your scholarship, the Scholarships Office staff, are required to check your ongoing eligibility and enrolled units. Once we have confirmed you meet the ongoing eligibility criteria we will authorise payment. Payment is made directly into your selected bank account by electronic funds transfer during the payment periods below:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Census Dates</th>
<th>Payment Periods</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Semester 1 - 31 March</td>
<td>1 – 15 May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester 2 - 31 August</td>
<td>1-15 October</td>
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Advice to Recipients

If I receive a scholarship what are my obligations?
If you are awarded an ECU Equity Scholarship you will need to:

- continue to meet the basic and ongoing eligibility requirements for the duration of the scholarship and provide documentary evidence to support your ongoing eligibility if requested; including continuing financial hardship (Centrelink payments)
- remain enrolled in a bachelor level degree
- maintain “good standing” in your bachelor degree for the duration of the scholarship;
- remain enrolled in a minimum of 30 credit points per semester
- agree to make yourself available for ECU promotional activities
- advise the Scholarships Office of any changes to your circumstances, which could affect your scholarship

What happens if I change courses at ECU?
The ECU Equity Scholarship is transferable between undergraduate bachelor degrees offered by the University. However you should note that the amounts of payments are limited to the duration of your course at the time of the conditional offer.
Example: When you accepted your conditional offer you were in your first semester of your degree, duration of that course being 3 years. After two semesters of full time study you decide to change direction and swap to another undergraduate degree, and start afresh. You will not receive a further 3 years of payments only those remaining 2 years.

Will I be able to keep my scholarship if I defer my enrolment or withdraw from my studies?
In the majority of cases you should be able to defer* your scholarship as well as your studies. You will need to contact the Scholarships Office to request to defer your scholarship and there will be a maximum amount of time that you will be able to do this (normally 2 semester’s maximum) without the scholarship being cancelled.

*Deferring or Intermitting your Scholarship
The scholarship will allow for a maximum of 2 periods (semesters) of either intermit or deferral, however you cannot defer or intermit your commencing semester and your scholarship conditional offer will be withdrawn.

What happens if I withdraw from units after census date / payment of scholarship is made?
You should be aware that you could be asked to return overpaid funds or that the following semesters payment could be reduced.

I have previously received an ECU Equity Scholarship can I apply again?
Unfortunately you would not be eligible to apply if you have completed an undergraduate degree course whilst receiving an ECU Equity Scholarship.

Who can I contact for further information?
Contact the Scholarships Office on 6304 3636 or scholarships@ecu.edu.au

You are advised to make your own enquiries with Centrelink, and also with the Australian Tax Office as to how any scholarship payments may affect your individual circumstances.